

SEPTEMBER 7, 1976

THE U.S. AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANNCR: NEGOTIATIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA SEEM TO BE AT A PAUSE. BOTH THE KISSINGER-VORSTER TALKS AND THE DAR ES SALAAM SUMMIT HAVE CONCLUDED, AND EACH GROUP IS WAITING FOR DETAILS OF THE OTHER CONVERSATION. FROM WASHINGTON, VOA NEWS ANALYST GEORGE HALSEY HAS THESE OBSERVATIONS.

VOICE: WHEN SECRETARY KISSINGER COMPLETED HIS TALKS WITH SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER VORSTER IN ZURICH SUNDAY, HE SAID THE OBJECTIVES FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA ARE SIMPLY STATED: MAJORITY RULE WITH RIGHTS FOR MINORITIES, A PEACEFUL END TO DISAGREEMENTS, AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS THAT ALLOWS ALL TO LIVE SIDE-BY-SIDE IN DIGNITY. BUT BESIDE THE SIMPLICITY OF THE OBJECTIVES, DOCTOR KISSINGER ARRAYED THE COMPLEXITIES OF OBSTACLES IN THE WAY.

FIRST THERE ARE TWO PROBLEMS -- RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA. IN THE RHODESIA SITUATION, THERE ARE FOUR SO-CALLED FRONT-LINE COUNTRIES THAT BORDER RHODESIA, THREE NATIONALIST OR INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS THAT DISAGREE, AND A WHITE-MINORITY GOVERNMENT THAT IS RECOGNIZED BY NO OTHER COUNTRY.

THE PROBLEM IS HOW TO ACHIEVE LEGAL INDEPENDENCE WITH MAJORITY RULE AND GUARANTEED RIGHTS FOR THE MINORITY IN A WAY THAT DOES NOT BRING CHAOS TO THE ECONOMY AS HAPPENED IN ANGOLA. BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES SAID EARLIER THIS SHOULD BE DONE IN NO MORE THAN TWO YEARS.

THE NAMIBIAN SITUATION IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT, AND SLIGHTLY LESS COMPLEX. LONG CONTROLLED BY SOUTH AFRICA -- DESPITE UNITED NATIONS AND WORLD COURT RULINGS TO THE CONTRARY -- NAMIBIA IS RICH IN MINERALS AND ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT TO ALL OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

THE ISSUE IS INDEPENDENCE AND UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES. A MULTI-RACIAL CONFERENCE THAT NAMIBIA'S NEIGHBORS BELIEVE WAS CONTROLLED BY SOUTH AFRICA DECLARED RECENTLY THAT A MULTI-RACIAL GOVERNMENT WILL BE FORMED AND NAMIBIA WILL BECOME INDEPENDENT AT THE END OF 1978. THE U.N. COUNCIL ON NAMIBIA SAYS THIS IS INADEQUATE -- ELECTIONS MUST BE HELD UNDER U.N. SUPERVISION SAYS THE COUNCIL, AND INDEPENDENCE MUST COME EARLIER. ABOVE ALL, PLANS FOR NAMIBIA'S FUTURE, SAY OTHER AFRICAN STATES, MUST BE MADE WITH AN ORGANIZATION THAT DID NOT TAKE PART IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE, THE SOUTHWEST AFRICA PEOPLES' ORGANIZATION, KNOWN AS SWAPO. (OPT) THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS THIS POSITION. SWAPO SAYS IT ALONE CAN SPEAK FOR THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE, BUT SOUTH AFRICA'S MINISTER VORSTER SAYS NO SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WILL NEGOTIATE WITH SWAPO. (END OPT)

JUST WHAT MR. KISSINGER AND MR. VORSTER SAID TO EACH OTHER OVER THE WEEKEND IS NOT KNOWN OF COURSE. BUT BOTH AGREED THAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE. MR. KISSINGER SAID THAT DESPITE ALL THE COMPLEXITIES, HE FELT A PROGRAM WAS SHAPING UP THAT COULD BE PRESENTED TO THE LEADERS OF BLACK AFRICA. HE SAID IT IS A PROGRAM FOR SOLVING THE RHODESIAN AND NAMIBIAN PROBLEMS WITHOUT MORE OF THE BLOODSHED WHICH IS ESCALATING IN RHODESIA AND IS INEVITABLE IN NAMIBIA UNLESS SOMETHING IS DONE.

(OPT) IN EFFECT, THE UNITED STATES -- ALONG WITH BRITAIN -- HAS OFFERED ITS GOOD OFFICES TO HELP NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE BLACK AFRICAN STATES. SOUTH AFRICA HAS AN OBVIOUS ECONOMIC INTEREST IN NAMIBIA, AND OBVIOUS ECONOMIC INFLUENCE OVER RHODESIA. OTHER NEIGHBORING STATES HAVE HIGH ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND AN OBVIOUS POLITICAL CONCERN TO SEE BLACK MAJORITY RULE IN BOTH COUNTRIES. (END OPT)

AMERICAN CONCERN IS THREE-FOLD: FIRST, THE PEOPLE OF THE REGION WILL SUFFER MOST -- BOTH PHYSICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY -- IF VIOLENCE CONTINUES OR GROWS. SECOND, THE UNITED STATES SEEKS PEACE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD. AND THIRD, CONTINUED CONTENTION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA VERY POSSIBLY COULD LEAD TO INTERVENTION BY OUTSIDE POWERS, EVEN THE GREAT POWERS, AND THIS WOULD BE A TRAGEDY.

(OPT) THE NEXT STEPS IN THE RAPIDLY UNFOLDING DRAMA OF SOUTHERN AFRICA DEPEND ON WHETHER AFRICAN LEADERS BELIEVE THAT THE PROGRAM BEING WORKED OUT BY THE UNITED STATES, ALONG WITH BRITAIN, OFFERS REASONABLE HOPE FOR NEGOTIATED SOLUTIONS. (END OPT)

-0-

PCA/GH